

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00056 051256Z

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ACTION SS-25

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R 051205Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7954

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 56

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: GALLAGHER/DYKES CASE

1. AT LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY INDIAN CHARGE, ECON COUNSELOR HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK PRIVATELY WITH NUMBER TWO IN IRAQUI EMBASSY (DR. WAHBI KARAGHOLI) ABOUT GALLAGHER/DYKES.

2. OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE TWO MEN WAS MENTIONED TO KARA-GHOLI. WE HAD ALREADY APPROACHED SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVING BETTER RELATIONS THAN OURSELVES WITH THE PALESTINIANS FOR ASSISTANCE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS IN OBTAINING THEIR RELEASE. UP TO NOW, FOR UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS, NO APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE TO THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES. ON THE SAME HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, HOWEVER, WE WANTED TO MENTION IT NOW AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR WHATEVER THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES FELT THEY WERE INN A POSITION TO DO TOWARD FACILITATING THE RELEASE OF GALLAGHER/DYKES.

3. REQUESTING DETAILS, KARAGHOLI WAS INFORMED THAT IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GALLAGHER/DYKES WERE BEING HELD BY A GROUP AFFILIATED WITH HABASH. KARAGHOLI ASKED IF THE GROUP IN QUESTION WAS LEBANESE OR PALESTINIAN AND WAS TOLD THAT THIS WAS NOT CLEAR TO ECON COUNSELOR BUT THAT THE GROUP IN QUESTION APPARENTLY WAS AFFILIATED WITH HABASH.

4. ECON COUNSELOR WENT ON FURTHER TO TELL KARAGHOLI

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THAT KAMAL JUMBLATTHMAFTBEEN VERY ACTIVE AND VERY HELP-

FUL IN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE MEN. IN
FACT IT HAD BEEN HOPED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, BUT TO OUR GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT (AND
JUMBLATT'S) THIS DID NOT TAKE PLACE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE
HABASH WAS IN BAGHDAD.

5. KARAGHOLI MADE NO PROMISES, BUT FAIRLY CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND REPORT TO HIS PEOPLE.

GODLEY

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